

From Our Special Correspondent.

MONTREAL, Jan. 14, 1865.

Some weeks ago I informed you that there were in this Province several gangs of Rebels organized for the purpose of plundering our people on the frontier, and that they only awaited the release of the St. Albans gang as a signal for beginning their nefarious work. According to promise I have kept an eye to the movements and arrangements of these desperadoes, and am now able to disclose in time, I trust, to thwart one of their diabolical projects.

In view of the delay that has been granted in the St. Albans case, and the almost certainty that the prisoners will finally be released, the other gangs have determined to defer action no longer.

So many rumors, without any foundation in fact, of projected raids on our border towns, have recently been imposed on the American press, that the intelligence I am about to communicate may be regarded by some as intended for another sensation. But such is not the case. The instructions I have from time to time received from you to utter nothing but facts and authentic information, would, if I recognized no higher obligations, prevent my giving currency to falsehoods or vague rumors for the unworthy purpose of deceiving the public, and exciting the fears of unprotected citizens on the frontier. Indeed, most of the stories of intended raids that have found their way into the papers, have been fabricated and cunningly circulated by Rebels themselves. They have been designed to divert the attention of our authorities from the real point of danger; and by scaring the people of other places, to cause them to cry wolf when there was no wolf, to the end that, when the wolf should come, their renewed cry of alarm would bring them no protection.

You understand the excellent facilities I enjoy for acquiring information in regard to the intentions and plans of the Rebels, and especially of the gangs in this country; and I will therefore proceed without further preface to the disclosure promised in the beginning of my letter.

The meditated project of these Rebels comprehends nothing less than the capture of the Clinton State Prison at Dannemora, a descent on the village of Plattsburg, and a grand raid in New-England. As the prison the machine shop, rolling mill, foundry, &c. are to be destroyed, and the convicts released, most of whom it is believed will readily accompany the raiders to Plattsburg. At the latter place the extensive barracks belonging to the Government are to be destroyed, the custom-house, post-office and banks plundered, and the entire town given up to pillage and conflagration. And all this "as a mild retaliation for the outrages committed by Hunter, Burbridge, Sheridan, and others."

But this work is not to be done alone by Rebels in Canada. A considerable number of the "chivalry" have been detached from their regiments by the Rebel War Department to assist in the work of plunder, murder and devastation.

These "rallant" men have stealthily made their way North, and many of them are now concealed with their friends in Baltimore and New-York, while a few others are said to have actually colonized in Plattsburg and other towns in Northern New-York. All are in communication with the leaders, and are awaiting orders. You will learn from my private note some particulars on this point, which it would be culpable to make public.

The plans devised and settled upon for executing these intentions have been approved by the shrewdest and most experienced Rebels in the province. The "invaders" from this quarter are to work their way across the line in small parties—most of them proceeding in sleds—in the neighborhood of Summit, and are to rendezvous at a designated point, at an appointed hour of night, near Chazy Lake.

The sleds, which at a proper time are to be abandoned, are each to be drawn by two horses, and are to contain saddles, arms and ammunition, and other articles necessary for the expedition. Such of the men as are not in this way provided with horses will, when they require them, supply themselves by robbing the stables most convenient to them.

The leaders have not only a complete drawing of Clinton Prison, but have recently reconnoitered the grounds and determined on the points and mode of attack. The prison is said to contain about 150 inmates, including several Southern sympathizers from Maryland, confined for political offenses, who are guarded by less than thirty sentinels. To surprise and overpower this guard is supposed to be an easy matter, and, as I have already stated, it is believed that many of the convicts will join them in the plunder and destruction of Plattsburg.

The brave men secreted in Baltimore and New-York are to proceed at different times to various points on or near the Ogdensburg and Rouse's Point Railroad, and on an appointed day are to take the morning train on its way from the former to the latter place; and immediately on leaving Cateaugy are to seize the train, destroy the railroad bridge and telegraph at that point, after which they will proceed east, and near Summit take up the remainder of the crew from the Canada side. The latter are to make their way by different routes to this obscure point under the guise of hunters. The force will then proceed to Moor's Junction and take possession of the Plattsburg train, which always smoothes at the junction with the train from Ogdensburg. Here the locomotive first seized will be disabled, the telegraph wires cut, and the raiders will "charge" for Plattsburg. At West Chazy they will destroy the railroad bridge, then continue on to Boekmantown—a hamlet four or five miles north of Plattsburg—where they will meet the raiders who are to proceed by way of Clinton Prison, and in company with them hasten to the above village.

Such are a few of the details of the plan, which, closely written, covers thirteen pages of foolscap. If their arrangements should be completely executed they would all reach Plattsburg before their approach could be made known there; and in no case could the people of the village be informed of their danger through friends in other parts of the County in time to enable them to successfully defend their homes and property.

This proposed raid is intended to differ in every respect from that on St. Albans. It is expected that the raiders, having accomplished their purposes at Plattsburg, will afterwards visit Keosauqua, where there are extensive rolling-mills and factories, cross to Burlington, Vt., plunder that town, Waterbury and Montpelier, capital of the State, then hasten on to Haverhill, N. H., and then pass across the latter State to Maine, where they will keep a raiding until driven by a superior force out of the country.

If obliged at last to seek refuge in Canada or New-England, the leaders believe that it could not be successfully disputed that their numbers and proceedings entitled them to be regarded as belligerents, and not liable to extradition. Those who are expected to engage in the expedition from Canada, are ordered by the Rebel Secretary of War to report to certain officers at points within the State of New-York, so that it could not

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PRICE FOUR CENTS.

THE CAPTURE OF FORT FISHER

Details of the Second Day's Operations—Participation of the Fleet.

From Our Special Correspondent.

SECOND DAY'S OPERATIONS.

SATURDAY, JAN. 14.—During the night of Friday the Rebels anchored close in shore, from which a good view of the beach could be had. The troops could hardly be seen either resting on their arms or sitting round the fires recounting their varied experiences during their temporary confinement on ship-board. At day-break a few shelter-tents erected on the slope of a large sand-hill, and surrounded by the United States flag, extemporized as Gen. Terry's Headquarters, shone plainly in view.

EYES ON SHORE.

Soon after day-break the wind freshened up from the South-West, and notwithstanding some little anxiety was felt lest the day should prove unfavorable the order was given to get the artillery ashore as speedily as possible. Soon after 10 o'clock the transports North Point and Governor Chase, their decks literally covered with troops, took up positions off Flag Pond Battery, and boats were immediately detailed from the fleet to land the men.

This was necessarily a slow process. Getting the howitzers and siege pieces ashore was a still more tedious operation, and it was not until nearly dusk that the debarkation was complete and the boats' recall signalled. At the other end of the line the usual activity prevailed. The monitors and monitors Monadnock, Cananook, Mahopac and Sangus still engaged the fort, which replied at intervals with tremendous effect as the shells and torpedoes of these fine vessels sufficiently attest. The Cananooks was struck thirty-three times during the first day's firing, many of the shots tearing down the five thicknesses of iron plating which encased her, and piercing her hull to the depth of several inches.

The Mahopac, though not quite so severely handled, bore unmistakable evidences of being subjected to a well-directed fire. The Monadnock and Sangus sustained but little or no injury. The bursting of a gun on the first vessel is elsewhere reported, as are also the casualties resulting therefrom. The manner in which these fine vessels were handled by their officers and crews, during the whole three days' engagement, is sufficiently shown by the appearance of the fort at the close of the bombardment, and justly entitle them to the highest consideration and commendation of the Navy Department.

The Dictator assigned a position in the plan of attack and stated in the Associated Press report to have sailed from Beaufort for the scene of action, did not take part in the engagement. His place was well filled by the Monadnock, whose four fifteen inch guns were fired over five hundred times during the attack without a single accident. Captain Parrot and his associate officers may well feel proud of their fine boat.

THE FORT-BUILDERS JOIN THE MONITORS.

Soon after 10 o'clock the Regent, Manassas, Kanawha, Grand Isle, Chipewah, Tacony and Jasco steam into position outside of the monitors. They quickly opened fire on Fort Fisher and the adjacent water batteries, which is continued until dark, the fort answering deliberately and at long intervals as before. The fleet anxiously awaited the promised assault. The lurid glare of the campfires on the beach, and the thousands at sea, again, light up the horizon for miles around, revealing the towering front of the Rebel fortress, and night once more closes over the scene.

THIRD DAY'S OPERATIONS.

SUNDAY, JAN. 15.—Never was the day of rest ushered in with brighter promise of fine weather, and never was the pledge more abundantly fulfilled. A clear sky, a bright sun, and a warm genial air—more like a June than a January morn.

Everything is ready for action.

THE BROOKLYN OPERATES.

1 O'CLOCK.—The Brooklyn, after receiving a fresh supply of ammunition from the Aris, sailed in and took her old position in front of the fort.

At 2 o'clock orders to "fire deliberately" were signalled from the flag-ship, and shortly after "fire rapidly." The cannonading at this hour was terrific. More than 100 shells per minute are thrown in and around the doomed fort, which is completely silenced. The frigates and monitors are enshrouded in flame and smoke. Sounds of applause reach the ear. Stronger and stronger they grow—something of more than ordinary interest is transpiring on shore, and every eye is instinctively turned in that direction.

LANDING THE BLUE JACKETS.

The following order (S) will sufficiently show the important part which the sailors and marines took in the final attack and capture of Fort Fisher. Before three o'clock the assaulting party from the fleet were all landed, and to some extent organized. The battalion (marines) consisted of three hundred men specially detached from the several frigates, &c., in the fleet.

These were organized into four companies, under the following commands: Capt. George Butler (Minnesota), Company A; First-Lieut. William H. Parker (Vanderbilt), Company B; Lieut. F. H. Corrie (Powhatan), Company C; Lieut. William Wallace (Susquehanna), Company D. Lieuts. Williams (Clondrogo), Meeker (Colorado), and Fagan (Vanderbilt) were also detailed with the battalion and attached to the several companies—the whole under command of Capt. J. I. Dawson of the Colorado.

This battalion, with between 1,600 and 1,700 sailors, embarking officers and men from almost every vessel in the fleet, composed the naval assaulting party.

THE ASSAULT.

Was made at a preconcerted signal from the fleet, and between 3 and 4 o'clock it was determined to assault the sea face of the fort, our brave seamen marched boldly up the beach, but when they reached a point within a hundred yards of the fort they were met by a shower of grape, canister, and musketry, before which the stoutest heart might quail. On they march throwing up the sand with their hands as they go. Their tiny earthworks fall, and they scrape holes in the sand where the leaden hail of death falls thickest, and here the foremost seek protection until their weary comrades join them.

On, on they go—they pass the friendly shelter of the land sea and deploy on the open, merciless beach. On, still on—they drop by dozens but their steps never falter. They are now beneath the steep battlements of the fort and within an arm's length of the bastion, which at point form a curtain or palisade. This runs down to the water's edge and shuts out all hope of escape except by the quickness of the sea.

They reach this spot. A sharp fire of musketry is poured upon them from the parapet. Volley after volley, with oaths deep and loud, are levelled at the heads of these brave fellows. Armed with a simple revolver and cutlass, and hemmed in front of the bastion, they are powerless. Their officers endeavor to rally them and lead them on, but in vain. They are falling by scores—the rearmost break and run. Their gallant leader has fallen, shot through the heart. They retreat, but the day is won. They have turned the tide of battle.

The troops, taking advantage of the diversion in their favor, have entered through the Sally-port in the rear. The fight is kept up till 9:30, when the fort falls into our hands. The loss in killed and wounded among the marines and sailors was about sixty, among whom are the brave young Lieut. Preston, and Captain Ben. Porter, of the Malvern.

COURTESIES TO THE FLEET.

During the previous attack on Fort Fisher Admiral Porter, with characteristic courtesy, had assigned the United States steamer Montgomery to the use of the Press.

Whether on account of the absence of that boat from the fleet, or some other unexplained cause, no provision of this kind was made, and the representatives of the several papers were quartered on the respective vessels on which they had obtained passage from Fort Monroe or Beaufort.

I desire to tender my acknowledgments to Capt. Pickering of the Vanderbilt, Lieut. Wells of the Aias, Mr. Diermont of the Gov. Buckingham, Keyser of the Polaris, and Porter of the Nansemond, and the officers of their several commands.

One Hundred Guns.

HARTFORD, Conn., Thursday, Jan. 13, 1865.

The Mayor of this city has ordered a salute of one hundred guns to be fired in honor of Maj.-Gen. Terry, who is a native of Hartford.

FROM MOBILE.

Movements in Alabama—The Rebels Nonplussed—Probable Fall of Mobile.

From Our Special Correspondent.

CAMP SAUND RIDGE, Jan. 7, 1865.

Outside of the rather contracted limits of that section of "actual occupation" in which your correspondence is confined for the present, the superscription to this letter is as far from indicating its own locality as the name Stylx is from defining the liquid boundary of the latter side of the infernal regions. I use it, however, first, because the boys, combining the elements of fancy and propriety, have so named it, and second, for the reason that our whole camp, other because it is too big or too little, has not yet been christened. If the reader will take his map, and look about twenty-five miles south-west of Mobile, he will see the mouth of the Passaicqua River. Some twelve miles above is the present location of a part of the land forces operating on the west side of Mobile Bay. Concerning these forces, everything not conceded under the military half ban, has been given in sufficient detail in my last letter. Beyond this, I can only say that orders from Gen. Canby have stopped the main body at and around West Passaicqua, while this part of the army is here to await developments. (These developments, I will whisper in the public ear, are more likely to result from operations of our army than anything the Confederates will attempt.)

A boy once went to a menagerie, and as usual with little folks, soon became wrapt in deeply interested contemplations of the elephant. But never having seen one before he very naturally supposed that the great reluctant trunk, swinging loosely to and fro, was the monster's tail. Just while he was thinking this he wondered why they did not turn the animal's head to the audience, the elephant extended his trunk, took an apple from the hand of a by-stander and put it in his mouth. It is said it required the growth and experience of several years to remove the impression made by the trifling incident upon the unfortunate lad's mind. No less mistake than this was made by the enemy regarding the object and destination of the several raids made through Mississippi. Fully impressed that the Federals, after the great success of Sherman's march to Savannah, would now stop at nothing short of making a grand raid across the whole Confederacy, and would replace every track, heretofore destroyed, with an underground railroad, concentrated a considerable force at Meridian, under Gen. Dick Taylor, sent far Forest to come and help stop the Yankees, and drew largely on Hood for reinforcements.

Gen. Beauregard, it is also stated on good authority, was ordered to the command of the forces protecting the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, and the entire inland communication of Mobile (and it now has no other), has fallen into temporary disuse. This was precisely what was expected, for although the ultimate object of these expeditions (excepting the one that left Memphis) was to take part in the beleaguering of Mobile, they had also the intermediate object of diverting the Rebel forces further North from a well understood prospective campaign. Of this, however, you will be informed long before the news can reach us. It seems that our demonstrations were mistaken for a movement upon Montgomery or some point on the Alabama River, and that his navigation could be stopped, and that city and Solms have been and are now being by the enemy in strength. This news, which is trustworthy, has reached us while I am writing, and is very important when considered in connection with the inquiry, from whence do these forces come? Of this, however, I need say no more. While our forces were marching straight to the Gulf, the enemy, entirely mistaken as to which end of the Union elephant was confronting him, concentrated his strength to meet us, just where we had no intention of going, thus leaving the region which was passed over by Gen. Davidson, during the first half of last month, entirely reclaimed. Our forces can now traverse it free from molestation.

THE SITUATION.

As matters now stand the advantages of the situation are largely on our side. Deceived as to our original intentions, most of the Rebel forces designed to protect the Mobile and Ohio Railroad and the navigation of the Alabama and Tombigbee rivers are far up in the interior, or else so scattered in their endeavors to cover the vulnerable points of the railroad as to have no great strength. Furthermore, fear of another raid from Vicksburg or Memphis will not permit them to alter the present disposition of their troops. They cannot make a movement without endangering the communications of Mobile. Of course this state of affairs is being taken advantage of, and such movements and dispositions are being made as promise speedily to compass the fall of the city. General Grant is already active—in fact, has been for a week, while the troops on and near Passaicqua make vague references to the discovery of a plot to capture the steamer Morning Star, but they give no particulars.

COTTON IN NEW ORLEANS.

Cotton in New Orleans was unchanged. Sugar and Molasses brisk; sales at 24-25c for Sugar, and at 81-82c for Molasses.

LATE SOUTHERN NEWS.

More Talk About Peace—Debate in the Rebel House—An Interesting Discussion.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Jan. 19, 1865.

The following are extracts from Richmond papers received at this Bureau.

From The Sentinel, Jan. 17.

Immediately after the opening of the day's business in the House of Representatives, Mr. Orr of Mississippi rose to a personal explanation. He had the clerk read an article from The Sentinel of the 14th inst., headed "Treason." He then said:

Mr. SPEAKER. The editor of this paper is the public and private printer of this House, and it is the common received organ of the Executive. This is my apology for not mentioning the slanderous article which I have had the clerk read. It is apparent to this House, and to those who are acquainted with its proceedings, that the article is intended as a criticism upon the report from the Committee upon Foreign Affairs, submitted to them on last Thursday. It is not less than a grave charge of treason against the South, and an implication of like character against the members of this House, who were signatories of the substance of the report, and voted to receive it in secret session. I trust that the reputation of the members composing the Committee is sufficient to satisfy the country that the article is false and slanderous. The deliberations of the Committee upon the report were provided over by the honorable, pure and distinguished member from Virginia, Mr. Turner of North Carolina, and he voted to receive it in secret session. Would he have voted, as he did, in open session, to go into secret session to receive that report? Would his colleagues, Mr. De Janette, Gen. Atkins of Tennessee, Mr. H. H. Hays, Mr. B. J. Burdett, Mr. J. M. Caldwell, and Mr. Smith of Alabama, have given their sanction to a treasonable report? Are they capable of treachery of the most infamous character? Are they capable of treason against the South? Can it be that they have voted to receive a report which is a grave charge of treason against the South, and an implication of like character against the members of this House, who were signatories of the substance of the report, and voted to receive it in secret session. 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